



CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM

1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, California 95814

(916) 657-2666
FAX (916) 654-9780

April 16, 1999

The Honorable Richard Pombo
United States House of Representatives
2411 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0511

Dear Representative Pombo:

This is in response to your request of March 10, 1999 for information on funds dispersed for ecosystem restoration by the CALFED Bay-Delta Program over the past two years.

The enclosed Tracking Table for Ecosystem Restoration Projects, dated April 9, 1999, displays the requested information. This table lists projects managed by each contract agency, with the CALFED funding source identified for each agency.

We have included in this table all projects funded under the December 1994 Bay-Delta Accord (more formally, "Principles for Agreement on Bay-Delta Standards between the State of California and the Federal Government"). Therefore, information in this table extends back to 1995, when California Urban Water Agencies and Metropolitan Water District became the contract agencies for the first infusion of stakeholder funds into the ecosystem restoration program.

With specific reference to the requested information:

- **Funding Source for Each Project.** The funding sources for each project are identified in the columns headed "CALFED Approved Funding," "CVPIA Funds," and "Other Funds." "CALFED Approved Funding" includes revenue from sale of State general obligation bonds authorized under California Proposition 204, appropriations authorized under the California Bay-Delta Environmental Enhancement and Water Security Act, EPA congressional add-on for CALFED watershed projects, and Stakeholder funds contributed under the Category III program.

It should be noted that many projects are receiving financing from several sources. For example, some projects are receiving financing from the Restoration Fund created under the Central Valley Project Improvement Act. This financing is listed under "CVPIA

CALFED Agencies

California The Resources Agency
 Department of Fish and Game
 Department of Water Resources
• California Environmental Protection Agency
 State Water Resources Control Board

Federal Environmental Protection Agency
 Department of the Interior
 Fish and Wildlife Service
 Bureau of Reclamation
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

Funds.” Additionally, many projects are receiving financing from other sources, such as the project sponsor, local governments, or grants from nonprofit organizations. This financing is listed under “Other Funds.”

- the name of the group responsible for each project is listed in the table as “Applicant.”
- the current status of each project is listed in the far right column under “Status” and is current through April 4, 1999.
- information on disbursement of CALFED Bay-Delta Program funds is contained in three columns in the middle of the table. “CALFED Approved Funding” identifies the amounts approved for each project from CALFED Bay-Delta Program funds. This represents the amounts approved by the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Resources, depending on the funding source, and that approval is based on a recommendation from the CALFED agencies with the comment and advice of the Bay-Delta Advisory Council and the Ecosystem Roundtable. “CALFED Funds Obligated” indicates funding for which there is a signed contract or interagency agreement. “CALFED Funds Expended” identifies the amounts that have been expended by the contract agency to each applicant.
- the ecological monitoring method for each project is described, in summary form, under “Monitoring.” Additional details are available for each project.
- Land use affected by the CALFED Restoration Coordination Program is listed under “Acres.” This includes the amount of agricultural land converted by a project. Blank entries in this column mean that no land use is affected by this project. Footnoted entries indicate that all or part of the listed acreage will remain in agricultural use (footnote 1) or that land is not now in agricultural use, so the project will not result in a land use change (footnote 2).

Protecting and enhancing agricultural lands for wildlife purposes is an important part of the CALFED Program. In acquiring land for restoration purposes CALFED seeks first to use publicly owned lands or lands which have existing degraded habitat which can be increased in value. Only 7% of the projects and 13% of the total acreage affected by the CALFED Restoration Coordination Program to date has resulted in land use conversion.

Often the greatest benefits to wildlife occur where agricultural areas are adjacent to habitat areas. The continuation of agricultural practices on restoration lands such as preserves or wildlife refuges protects these areas from urban development, maintains agricultural use and infrastructure and provides wildlife benefits. 68% or more than 20,000 acres of agricultural lands affected by the CALFED Restoration Coordination

Program to date, have been maintained to some degree in agricultural use either farmed or grazed.

If agricultural lands are considered for restoration purposes, CALFED seeks to maintain the lands in private ownership, achieving habitat values through the use of conservation easements. In addition, agricultural lands which are lower in value because of soil type, hydrology, location, lack of economic viability, or susceptibility to damages are sought over high value or prime agricultural lands.

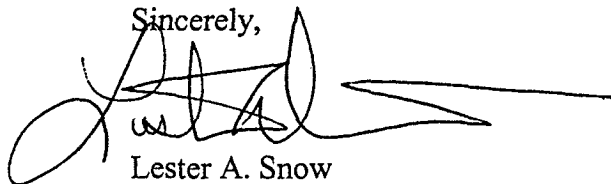
We have included additional information:

- the project purpose, in brief form, as part of the "Monitoring" entry.
- the CALFED Number, which is an identifier number, with the first two digits indicating the year of project approval.
- the geographic area of each project under "Geographic Area."
- total number of contracts; amount of CALFED Funds approved, obligated, and expended; percentage of approved funds that have been obligated; percentage of approved funds that have been expended; and percentage of contracts that have been executed. All these figures are organized by contract agency.

You may be aware that we have released a Proposal Solicitation Package for funding available in 1999. This PSP was released in February, with responses due to CALFED on April 16, 1999. A maximum of \$18.7 million will be awarded through this process. Because we have not yet received proposals as part of this process, we have no information to report on these proposals. We have included a copy of the PSP, which describes funding priorities and recommendation processes, for your information.

I hope this information is helpful. Please call me at (916) 657-2666, or Daniel McCarroll, CALFED legislative coordinator at (916) 653-5704, if you have additional questions on this material.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lester A. Snow', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lester A. Snow
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: Honorable Bruce Babbitt
Secretary of Interior

Mary Nichols
Secretary of Resources